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SAN DIEGO ZOO NOOZ



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THE PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY

1. To promote the advancement of Science by the study of nature, natural history and the natural sciences; to foster and stimulate the public interest in the study and conservation of wild animal life, in the collection, care and exhibition of live animals, birds, fish and reptiles and in the collection, exhibition and care of study specimens of scientific or historical value.

2. To stimulate and maintain public interest in the erection and maintenance of suitable buildings commensurate with the size and resources of the City of San Diego and State of California.

4. To stimulate and maintain public interest in the provision, erection and

maintenance of a Zoological Hospital and Biological Research Institute commensurate with the size and resources of the City of San Diego and State of California.

5. To provide for the delivery of lectures, for the exhibition of photographs, slides and motion pictures, for the publication and distribution of literature of all kinds dealing with natural history and natural sciences.

6. The Society shall be operated for the mutual benefit and advancement of its members for non-profitable purposes and no part of the net earnings thereof is to inure to the benefit of any member.

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¶ This yawn of contentment may be taken as an expression of approval of San Diego's salubrious climate, which makes it possible to house practically all of the Balboa Park menagerie in open-air cages.

ZOO COLLECTS BARN OWLS FOR STRICKEN LORD HOWE ISLAND

Lord Howe Island, which lies off the coast of Australia, has recently become over-run with rats, and the zoo has received a call from the Islanders, through the Taronga Park Zoological Society of Sydney, Australia, for a supply of owls with which to fight this pest. The Island has become infested to such an extent that the

palm seed crops, upon which the people depend for a living, are being totally destroyed.

The rodents have become so numerous that nothing short of wholesale slaughter will effectually reduce their number, and after deep consideration the Lord Howe

Island Board of Control concluded that the only solution to their problem lay in the importation of owls.

At the suggestion of Dr. H. M. Wegeforth, President of the local Society, it was decided to furnish them with Barn Owls (*Strix pratincola*) only, since this variety has been proven the best rodent destroyer of all its kind.

Some time ago scientists ex-

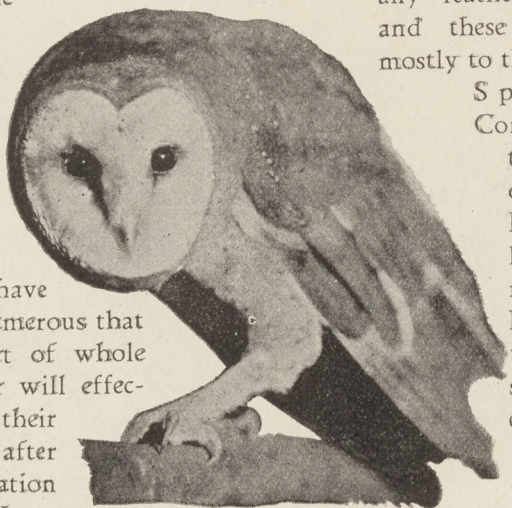
amined a large number of owl pellets in order to determine just what percentage of their diet was made up of harmless creatures.

Of 5,677 skulls found in the pellets of one nest, 3730 were of meadow mice, 817 of house mice, 433 of rats, and 379 of various small injurious mam-

mal. In only 318 were there any feathers at all, and these belonged mostly to the English

Sparrow.

Consequently the people of Lord Howe Island need not fear Barn Owls will destroy beneficial or desirable creatures and be-



come pests themselves, as has many times been the case when animals have been imported for similar uses.

Mr. Fred Flowers, of the Sydney zoo, will arrive in San Diego soon, bringing with him a large shipment of Australian animals. On his return trip he will take a shipment of North American fauna for Sydney, and a large number of these owls which will be sent on to the stricken Lord Howe Island.

THE SAN DIEGO ZOONOOZ

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NEW EXHIBITS

L. M. Klauber, Curator of Reptiles, very recently received one of the most unusual snakes he has had for some time. A Desert Diamond Rattler (*Crotalus atrox atrox*) was captured by Adolf Innes near Seeley in Imperial Valley. This is the first of this species we have had in two years.

A tame Grey Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) was donated by Virginia Carroll Moynahan, of 4104 Ingalls street, San Diego.

Through trading with eastern zoological gardens, the zoo recently acquired 6 Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), 2 Black Vultures (*Catharista urubu*), 12 Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), and 2 Barred Owls (*Syrnium varium*). These are all on exhibit in their respective cages.

Mr. Griffing Bancroft returned from his expedition to the Gulf of Lower California on March 23rd with several Brewster Boobies (*Sula brewsteri*) and rare Red-billed Tropic Birds (*Phaethon aethereus*) for the zoo.

Mr. Bancroft reports a wonderful trip, although much stormy weather was encountered. From a scientific standpoint the trip was a huge success, as many new and interesting facts were learned regarding the fauna of that little known section of country.

The expedition was instigated and financed by Mr. Bancroft, Dr. Bishop, a noted ornithologist of Los Angeles, and the Zoological Society of San Diego.

BIRTHS

The deer mesa has recently noted a new arrival in the Gazelle (*Gazelli bennetti*) herd. This is the third gazelle born since the herd was brought from Honolulu last April.

Two young Collared Peccaries (*peccari angulatus*) which were born on March 9th, are on exhibit in their canyon home. These little animals do very well in captivity in this climate, and the group has now grown to number twelve.

It is never wise to count chickens before they are hatched, but since that is merely a symptom of too great anticipation, it is only natural that the zoo men should be guilty of that very thing when a pair of Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) go to house-keeping in captivity. So rarely do these birds attempt to raise a family when captive that the sight of two eggs in their nest is an event worthy of broadcasting. And this unusual thing has happened here at the zoo. Mrs. Owl hovers over her nest in the face of the cliff which forms the back of the cage, while Mr. Owl sits on guard the whole day through, and it will not be long until their loving care, it is hoped, will be rewarded.

Three youngsters were born to the zoo's pair of Timber Wolves (*Canis nubilus*) on March 21st. Their mother was secured with many other animals from the Nell Shipman Motion Picture Company which went bankrupt at Priest Lake, Idaho, last spring.

Few people fail to notice and remark about the mother instinct of the Java Monkeys (*Macaca mordax*) who, with their newborn babes, are shown in one of the corner cages of the primate group. If this instinct were equally strong in all human mothers 'tis certain no babies would be left on doorsteps.

CASH PRIZES FOR LIVE REPTILES

"Snake season" lasts from March 1st to November 30th, and the following cash prizes are offered for reptiles caught in San Diego county and brought to the zoo during this time:

For the greatest number of snakes, \$35.

For the next largest number, \$20.

For the most unusual specimen, \$10.

Prizes for the season of 1925 were awarded as follows:

First prize—Fred E. Walker, East San Diego.

Second prize—L. Valdborg, Chula Vista.

The third prize was divided between A. H. Schlanze, of San Ysidro, and L. Kemp of East San Diego. Both of these parties brought in Western



Faded Snakes (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*).

Those who are likely to attempt collecting rattlesnakes should be warned of the deadly effects of this reptile's bite. All venomous snakes are handled, even by professional snake men, with

the aid of the "snake stick."

An example of this tool is pictured here. All that is needed is a long stick, a piece of leather strap, a stiff wire, and a few staples. The strap is made into a loop, one end fastened to the end of the stick and the other to the stiff wire. The wire is run up the

stick and held in place by the staples, but left loose enough to slide.

In picking up a snake the leather loop is slipped over the reptile's head and then tightened by pulling on the wire. The snake can then be dropped into a box without placing any part of the body within striking distance.

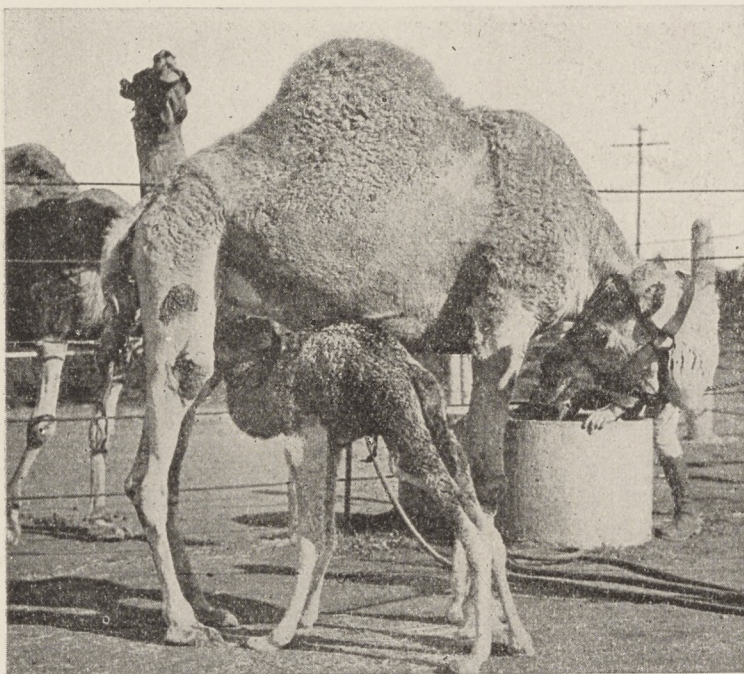
AN UNUSUAL GIFT

One of the most unusual and valuable gifts the zoo has received for some time consists of two large painted bulletin boards, one located at Sixteenth and Imperial Avenue, and the other at California and Pierce streets. They were given by Mr. George A. Sample, local manager of the Foster & Kleiser Outdoor Advertising Co., and represent some of the finest work that the company's artists have ever turned out. They are not only splendidly proportioned and balanced, but command the immediate attention of all passers-by.

GOAT HILLS

The deer mesa at present resembles a busy oil field, and recent visitors to that part of the grounds have wondered if the zoo might not be backing a proposition similar to Signal Hill. But the "derricks" are merely forms for four artificial rock cliffs to be used as quarters for mountain goats, and the place may be safely visited with no fear of being greeted by oil stock salesmen.

These hills when completed will resemble the sandstone pinnacles so numerous in the Bad Lands country, and will provide ideal surroundings for these creatures whose lives are a series of leaps and bounds.



MOVIE ACTORS

As we go to press most of our camel herd is on location near Yuma, Arizona, working under the direction of Herbert Brennon, who is filming "Beau Geste." They will play a prominent part in this Famous Players-Lasky super-production, which is to be a sequel to the spectacular "Ten Commandments."

COOGAN VISITS ZOO

Jackie Coogan, the most loved of all juvenile motion picture stars, had long wanted to visit the zoo, but not until Wednesday, March 10th did he have that privilege. Upon arriving he found that the zoo foreman, Mr. Norman Johnson, was an old acquaintance who had worked in a picture with him. So Jackie's personally conducted tour of the garden proved to be a reunion of friends as well as sight-seeing trip.

and will be far more conducive to the health of the animals than the old small paddock where it has heretofore been necessary to confine them. These larger quarters will also permit a considerable increase in the number of the herd, and it is expected that we will soon have one of the finest groups of elk to be seen in any zoo.

♦ ♦ ♦

NEW ELK PADDOCK

Through the interest and generosity of local Lodge No. 160, B. P. O. Elks, the building of an ideal elk paddock has been made possible. Occupying approximately 10 acres of ground, it will lie in the western part of the zoo,

TOOTING OUR OWN HORN

Keeper Kilgore is certainly having singular success with Snuggles, the little Australian Koala Bear (*Phascogaleus cinereus*). Usually it is nothing short of a crime to take these animals from their native land since they succumb so quickly. This specimen has been living happily and contentedly in her eucalyptus tree for over a year now, which is something to toot about.



THE LION GROTTO

Not a place to confine wild beasts, but a mounting designed to set off one of nature's masterpieces.

HOW TO SEE THE ZOO

The zoo occupies 140 acres in the northern part of Balboa Park, which is located in the center of the city of San Diego. It is reached by all automobile highways leading from every section of the city. The number 7 street car comes closer to the entrance than any other. The zoo is open to visitors every day in the year excepting Christmas, and all exhibits may be viewed from 8:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. each day, with the exception of the reptile house, which is closed Monday all day.

To obtain the greatest returns from your visit to the zoo, come prepared to stay all day. Bring your lunch, or you may eat at the zoo's lunch counter.

All animals are fed 7 days a week, at 8:30 a. m. and 4:00 p. m., except some of the larger flesh-eating animals, which are fasted on Sunday.

MEMBERSHIPS

The By-Laws of the Society provide for the following classes of members:
ACTIVE MEMBERS—Those who have paid their annual dues, which are \$5 per year.

LIFE MEMBERS—Those who have donated \$200 or who have rendered distinguished service to the Society.

PATRONS—Those who donate \$1,000.

FOUNDERS—Those who donate \$2,000.

BENEFACTORS—Those who donate \$10,000.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS—Those who pay dues of \$25 per year.